



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

MAYOR ANNOUNCES SUSAN MADISON AS CITY'S NEW DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced today that Susan Madison has been appointed as the City's new Disability Services Program Coordinator. Madison will oversee the City's Disability Services Program and will be responsible for the management and oversight of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and additional federal and state regulations. She will also formulate and administer policies affecting the disability community, act as a single point of contact for progress on the City's Disability Access Transition Plan, and track complaints related to disability access, among other duties. She started in this position yesterday.

"Selecting the right person to oversee the City's Disability Services Program has been a top priority, and I believe we've made an outstanding choice in Susan Madison," said Mayor Jerry Sanders. "San Diego will be well served by Susan's extensive background in disability issues and the respect she enjoys among local and national disability leaders. I look forward to working with her and receiving her advice and guidance on disability-related issues."

Madison is a disability consultant specializing in training, facilitation, organizational development and leadership. With over 25 years of experience in the disability field, she recently coordinated the San Diego Disability Coalition. She has managed a disability mentoring program, served at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) managing their Technical Assistance Project, was a National Council on Disability's Public Policy Fellow in 2000, and was the former Executive Director for Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities in Arizona.

"I am honored to be able to serve the City of San Diego and the disability community in my new role. I am eager to provide the Mayor and City staff with proper guidance and direction as we move the City forward in addressing a variety of accessibility needs," said Madison. "I am especially looking forward to working as part of an administration that has made disability issues a top priority."

Madison has also served on many boards and commissions including San Diego's Committee on Disability Issues; the Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues; River of Dreams, a non-profit board providing river rafting trips for children and adults with disabilities; and as Chairperson for Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, a riding program for people with disabilities. She was chair of Arizona's State Independent Living Council (SILC) from 1989 - 1990.

The Disability Services Program was transferred to the Office of Ethics and Integrity in January 2007. Madison will report to Deputy Chief of Ethics and Integrity Jo Anne SawyerKnoll.

"Susan brings a wealth of information to this position, and her working knowledge of local disability issues and challenges will serve the citizens of San Diego well," said SawyerKnoll. "I believe we've created a position that can effectuate substantive, positive change with the way the City of San Diego responds to disability issues from this point forward."

Mayor Sanders has made disability issues a top priority of his administration. He has committed \$50 million over the next five years to address ADA accessibility issues, with \$13.048 million allotted in FY08. The Mayor has also held a series of Community Forums on Disability Issues, with another one planned for July 7, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at San Diego Credit Union, 6546 Sequence Drive. The event is accessible by Bus Route 921. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. There is free parking on site.

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